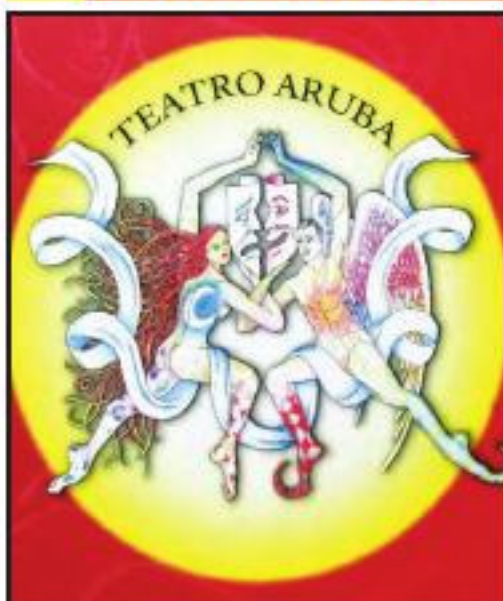


THE MORNING NEWS

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Obama, Pope Francis meets for first time



CITE DU VATICAN, Vatican City : Pope Francis and US President Barack Obama exchange gifts during a private audience on March 27, 2014 at the Vatican. (AFP)

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - US President Barack Obama spoke of his admiration for Pope Francis and invited him to the United States at their first talks on Thursday but got a reprimand for contraception clauses in his health-care reform act.

Obama said he had been "extremely moved" by the Catholic leader's message of compassion for the needy and said their conversation had focussed on the need to address "growing inequality" and to show "empathy".

"His Holiness has the capacity to open people's eyes," Obama said at a joint press conference with Prime Minister Matteo Renzi after his Vatican visit.

The president also spoke of the "opportunity" for immigration reform in the US after Francis stressed the plight of families that are being divided by deportations and are forced to "live in the shadows".

The Vatican said in a terse statement that the two sides had discussed "the exercise of the rights to religious freedom, life and conscientious objection" -- a reference to Obama's Affordable Care Act (ACA).

It said these issues were "of particular relevance for

the Church" in the United States, following a Supreme Court challenge against the law by Christian employers which is expected to lead to a ruling in June.

The issue of "Obamacare" and its clause forcing private employers to provide health coverage for contraception for their employees has incensed US Catholic leaders who say that it infringes on religious freedoms.

Continued on pg 6

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DCA announces grand plans to mark World Theater Day 2014



Jhon Freddy Montoya

ORANJESTAD -- This is the tenth year that Aruba's Department of Culture, (DCA) will be conducting a special event marking World Theater Day, or in Papiamentu, Dia Del Teatro, which was yesterday, March 27. It is a day to celebrate all those dedicated individuals who strive continually to keep an interest in culture and the theatrical arts alive globally, and on Aruba, used as stimulus to island youth to continue the traditions of great theater, performing and artistic creativity.

World Theater Day was established in 1961 by the International Theater Institute. ITI is the world's largest performing arts organization, founded in 1948 by theatre and dance experts and UNESCO. Dedicated to performing arts, ITI advances UNESCO's goals of mutual understanding and peace and advocates for the protection and promotion of cultural expressions, regardless of age, gender, creed or ethnicity. It works to these ends internationally and nationally in the areas of arts education, international exchange and collaboration, and youth training. ITI organizes the International Dance Day and World Theatre Day every year at the UNESCO, Paris.



Brett Bailey

This year on Aruba, it was announced that this special anniversary celebration, coordinated by DCA staffer Jhon Freddy Montoya, will showcase all the performing arts and is presently in production. It will incorporate the annual summer Gang di Arte program and be combined with the announcement of the winner of Aruba's National Theater Prize 2014, for which the DCA is now accepting nominations. The final event and prize ceremony will take place on the International Day of Actors, August 26. Those wishing to nominate an individual, foundation or performing group can do so by sending their information to teatro-aruba@hotmail.com, or stop by the DCA offices on L.G. Smith Boulevard, just behind DA drugstore. The deadline for submissions is April 28.

Last night, Frank Croes, this year's winner of Aruba's National Patriotic Poetry contest, delivered the World Theater Day message at Seri Noka theater in Santa Cruz. Each year, a globally respected member of the theater and acting community is asked to compose a message on the state of the performing arts. The first was Jean Cocteau in 1962, followed by Arthur Miller the next year. The year, it was written by Brett Bailey, a South African playwright, designer, director, installation maker and the artistic director of Third World Bunfight. "His acclaimed iconoclastic dramas interrogate the dynamics of the post-colonial world," according to ITI, and have been performed across Europe, all of Africa and Australia, winning several awards. This is his message on World Theater Day:

Wherever there is human society, the irrepressible Spirit



Frank Croes

of Performance manifests.

Under trees in tiny villages, and on high tech stages in global metropolis; in school halls and in fields and in temples; in slums, in urban plazas, community centres and inner-city basements, people are drawn together to commune in the ephemeral theatrical worlds that we create to express our human complexity, our diversity, our vulnerability, in living flesh, and breath, and voice.

We gather to weep and to remember; to laugh and to contemplate; to learn and to affirm and to imagine. To wonder at technical dexterity, and to incarnate gods. To catch our collective breath at our capacity for beauty and compassion and monstrosity. We come to be energized, and to be empowered. To celebrate the wealth of our various cultures, and to dissolve the boundaries that divide us.

Wherever there is human society, the irrepressible Spirit of Performance manifests. Born of community, it wears the masks and the costumes of our varied traditions. It harnesses our languages and rhythms and gestures, and clears a space in our midst.

And we, the artists that work with this ancient spirit, feel compelled to channel it through our hearts, our ideas and our bodies to reveal our

realities in all their mundanity and glittering mystery.

But, in this era in which so many millions are struggling to survive, are suffering under oppressive regimes and predatory capitalism, are fleeing conflict and hardship; in which our privacy is invaded by secret services and our words are censored by intrusive governments; in which forests are being annihilated, species exterminated, and oceans poisoned: what do we feel compelled to reveal?

In this world of unequal power, in which various hegemonic orders try to convince us that one nation, one race, one gender, one sexual preference, one religion, one

ideology, one cultural framework is superior to all others, is it really defensible to insist that the arts should be unshackled from social agendas?

Are we, the artists of arenas and stages, conforming to the sanitized demands of the market, or seizing the power that we have: to clear a space in the hearts and minds of society, to gather people around us, to inspire, enchant and inform, and to create a world of hope and open-hearted collaboration?

Global activities regarding World Theater Day are listed on the ITI website:

<http://www.world-theatre-day.org/en/index.html>

By Rosalie Klein



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4th Annual Mind Your Eye Conference is on May 31st

ABOUT THE GUEST SPEAKERS



Dr. ETHAN NADELMANN is the founder and executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance, a New York City – based non-profit organization working to end the War on Drugs. He holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University and a master's degree in international relations from the London School of Economics. He taught politics and public affairs at Princeton University.



NEILL FRANKLIN

Executive Director of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), an international organization made up of current and former members of the law enforcement and criminal justice communities who are speaking out about the failures of our existing drug policies. Major Franklin is a 34-year veteran of the Maryland State Police and Baltimore Police Department.



PIEN METAAL, MA is a researcher at TNI, Trans National Institute, a worldwide fellowship of scholar activists based in Amsterdam. She holds a Master of Arts in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Amsterdam. She currently coordinates the Latin America project of the TNI's drugs and Democracy programme.

HW Training & Development Associates has been very successful in organizing the annual international conference called "Mind Your Eye" about crime reduction and crime prevention for the private sector as for government departments. The organizing team of the Mind Your Eye conference has succeeded in attracting powerful international and local speakers in the past years. This year HW Train-

ing & Development Associates in cooperation with Drug Policy Alliance will organize its fourth annual Mind Your Eye conference in Aruba.

The conference will take place on Saturday, May 31, 2014 in Las Palmas Conference Room at the Holiday Inn Resort Aruba, starting from 09:30-17:00 hrs.

This year the conference will deal with the impact the drug problem has on your business and on the security

of your country as well with alternatives to deal with the drug problem. In 1998 the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed the slogan "A world without drugs: we can achieve it" and after twenty five years the reality is that there are more drugs in this world, even cheaper and easier to get. It is then not a surprise that in 2011 a special committee of the United Nations, including the former General Secretary of UN Kofi Annan, published a re-

port entitled "The war against drugs has failed".

There are many questions which are very relevant both for the private sector as for our governments.

How do drugs affect the productivity of your employees? Can your business continue with drug testing the employees? Is the prohibition policy not a violation of the human rights of the consumer? Is the zero tolerance line against all drugs reasonable?

Or do we have more rational approaches of making distinction between drugs according to the harm reduction logic? Are some drugs less dangerous than other drugs? Already in 1982 the National Academy

of Sciences published a report looking for alternatives to the prohibition policy and the war on drugs which only did increase the crime rate, and the question after 30 years of that publication is if the time is now ready for change.

For those interested in promoting a more rational input in their business or in the government policy about the drug problem, this conference will be an important instrument.

Registration can only be done via the website: www.mindyoureyeye.info or through e-mail address: registration@mindyoureyeye.info. For further information contact a conference team member at tel: 00 297 5677648 or email:

info@mindyoureyeye.info.

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Cas Animal Cont'd

Deano is settled in his new home in Boston



The Cas Animal Foundation of Aruba is dedicated to rescuing abandoned and abused dogs off island streets, ideally to be placed in a good home. No matter how badly injured or weakened by disease, Cas Animal founder, Kirsten Arndt, has discovered hundreds of times over that with proper medical care, they can be rehabilitated to be a wonderful friend to a loving person. Often, their afflictions are only superficial, but rendering them unattractive, which is no reason, in Kirsten's opinion, to deprive them of a happy life and the chance to be a loyal, loving companion. Kirsten also maintains an animal ambulance, and can be contacted to report a dog in distress at any time.

A driving goal, at present, is to build Aruba's first no-

kill animal shelter, but the primary purpose of the foundation, aside from providing a home for the unwanted, is to place the rescued dogs in loving homes. For the last six months Cas Animal has been experiencing exceptional success along this line. A perfect example of this process is Deano, who last week was transported back to the U.S. by vacationing volunteer Marianne and her husband who were happy to take this young Aruban puppy to Boston where adoptive mother Wendy Gibbons eagerly awaited his arrival. Adopting a dog from abroad is a very simple process.

Deano's story is a great illustration of how many others share Kirsten's sympathy and love for canines, and cannot turn their backs on such a sad creature in need of

a little kindness. Stacy Patterson was living on Aruba with her partner, Deano, who worked at the Valero Refinery. With its closing, she has returned to England, their homeland, to settle their affairs before they move on to Australia.

However, Stacy was still unsettled about the fate of a weak, starving puppy she found barely surviving on the streets near the house they had occupied on Aruba. She had contacted Cas Animal, which took in the pup, now named Deano, to nurse it back to health. With some mild treatment for a disfiguring skin condition referred to as "puppy fungus," which is easily and inexpensively cured, the little puppy thrived.

Stacy would have been happy to adopt Deano herself, but England has extremely strict dog import regulations and demand months of quarantine, and she did not want to put the puppy through that ordeal. She found someone in her close friend, Wendy, who is more than willing to take in an Aruban dog and provide it with a good home. Stacy is continuing to work with Cas Animal in finding good homes for the many puppies in their charge. A call went out for a returning vacationer to transport Deano to their new home, and to the foundation's gratification, there were a number of responses.

If anyone who is spending a week or two on the island is interested in transporting a puppy to a new home, please all Kirsten at 742-8732, and she will handle everything. She will meet you at the airport with the dog secured in a special bag, will cover the canine's travel expenses. Any readers who have similarly been smitten by one of Aruba's sweet cunucu dogs in need of a good home will find the foundation ready to help you through the process of acquiring the papers and a carrier needed to take one home. As this story demonstrates, this is done regularly and many happy owners find great pleasure in being reminded every day of their time in Aruba by a loving new companion.

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Statement of Arcos Dorados

ORANJESTAD -- In order to maximize restaurant operations in Aruba, McDonald's, the biggest franchise in the world, announces that, as of April 1, 2014, its regional office in Puerto Rico will be in charge of all administrative operations.

"At Arcos Dorados we work with all our business partners, employees and local suppliers to strengthen McDonald's operations in Aruba, to ensure that our restaurants continue to be the favorite one on our island," said McDonald's Operation Supervisor for Arcos Dorados Fabian Lantinga.

"Clients can visit our restaurants in Santa Cruz, Seroe Blanco, Palm Beach and also our new Dessert Center in Seroe Blanco."

About Arcos Dorados

Arcos Dorados Holdings Inc. is McDonald's largest franchisee in the world in terms of system wide sales and number of restaurants. As of December 31, 2010, it represented 6.7% of McDonald's franchised restaurants globally. As the

largest operator of McDonald's restaurants in Latin America and the Caribbean, it has more than 94,000 employees (as of April 2013), being one of the region's leading employers of young, and first-time job holders. It serves more than 4.3 million customers daily and is the largest quick service restaurant chain in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Arcos Dorados operates in 20 countries and territories in Latin America and the Caribbean, including Argentina, Aruba, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Curaçao, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, St. Croix, St. Thomas, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. Arcos Dorados is recognized as one of the best companies in Latin America and also appears on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: ARCO). For more information visit their website:

www.arcosdorados.com

Cas Animal Cont'd

The Cas Animal Foundation has a strict no-kill policy, whether new homes are found for rescued dogs, or not. There are now approximately 50 dogs under their care, a number of which are not puppies, and will likely never be adopted. The medical and feeding costs of all the rescued animals is never ending. Those wishing to support Kirsten's work with donations can do so in the form of payment to the Cas Animal Foundation account at the Contreras Veterinary Clinics, call; 587-0917. Donations can also be made directly to the foundation's account: Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110. For more great Cas Animal success stories, and to contact the foundation, visit their Facebook page "Cas Animal Aruba"

By Rosalie Klein

If beef is not on your agenda for Lent, may we remind you about our succuLENT Seafood dishes...

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- Forte Koup recognized for its high value and low cost of ownership versus competitors
- Vincentric award emphasizes Kia's commitment to advancing value to new levels of sophistication

IRVINE, Calif., March 26, 2014 – The 2014 Kia Forte Koup has been honored as a 2014 Vincentric "Best Value in America" award winner in the Compact Coupe segment. Vincentric is a leading source of cost-of-ownership data and analysis within the automotive industry.

"The all-new 2014 Forte Koup being named 'Best Value in America' in the Compact Coupe category by Vincentric emphasizes Kia's commitment to advancing value to new levels of sophistication," said Michael Sprague, executive vice president of sales and marketing, Kia Motors America. "Aside from offering a sporty driving experience, world-class design and cutting-edge technology, our award-winning two-door has also proven itself to be an affordable and sensible choice within its competitive set."

Vincentric measures cost-of-ownership using eight different cost factors:



depreciation, fees & taxes, financing, fuel, insurance, maintenance, opportunity cost, and repairs. Utilizing this methodology, Vincentric identifies which vehicles have lower-than-expected ownership costs relative to other comparable offerings. The statistical process evaluates each vehicle across all 50 states and Washington, D.C.

"Kia is known for producing feature rich vehicles at very competitive prices and the Kia Forte Koup delivers on that promise," said David Wurster, president of Vincentric. "It won the Vincentric 'Best Value in America'

award in the Compact Coupe segment as a result of very competitive pricing, low depreciation, low insurance costs and due to its excellent warranty and low repair costs."

About Vincentric

Vincentric provides data, knowledge, and insight to the automotive industry by identifying and applying the many aspects of automotive ownership costs. Vincentric data is used by organizations such as Yahoo! Autos, AOL, Cars.com, Chevrolet, Toyota, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Kiplinger.com, Business Fleet Magazine, NADA

Guides, and Fleet-Central.com as a means of providing automotive insight to their clientele. Vincentric, LLC is a privately held automotive data compilation and analysis firm headquartered in Bingham Farms, Michigan.

About Kia Motors America

Kia Motors America (KMA) is the marketing and distribution arm of Kia Motors Corporation based in Seoul, South Korea. KMA proudly serves as the "Official Automotive Partner" of the NBA and PGA and surpassed the 500,000 annual sales mark for the second consecutive year in 2013 following the launch of seven all-new or significantly redesigned vehicles. KMA offers a complete line of vehicles, including the flagship K900 rear-drive sedan, Cadenza premium sedan, Sorento CUV, Soul urban passenger vehicle, Sportage compact CUV, Optima mid-

size sedan, Optima Hybrid, the Forte compact sedan, Forte5 and Forte Koup, Rio and Rio 5-door sub-compacts and the Sedona minivan, through a network of more than 765 dealers across the United States. Kia's U.S. manufacturing plant in West Point, Georgia, builds the Optima* and Sorento* and is responsible for the creation of more than 14,000 plant and supplier jobs.

Information about Kia Motors America and its full vehicle line-up is available at its website – www.kia.com. For media information, including photography, visit www.kiamedia.com. To receive custom email notifications for press releases the moment they are published, subscribe at <http://www.kiamedia.com/us/en/newsalert>.

* The Sorento and Optima GDI (EX Trims and certain LX Trims only) and GDI Turbo are built in the United States from U.S. and globally sourced parts.

Obama, Pope Francis meets...

Cont. from pg 1

"I pledged to continue to dialogue with the US Conference of Bishops," Obama said, referring to a conversation with the Vatican's Secretary of State Pietro Parolin after his meeting with Pope Francis.

Obama said there was a need to "strike the right balance" between providing healthcare for women and ensuring "that religious freedom is still observed".

"I explained to (Parolin) that most religious organisations are entirely exempt," said Obama, who has also faced criticism from Catholic leaders for his support for gay marriage and abortion rights.

Controversy over "Obamacare" and the president's drop in popularity could help Republicans in this year's mid-term congressional elections, which would weaken the US leader for his remaining two years in power.

- 'Great admirer' -

Obama told Francis he was a "great admirer" at the start of their talks at the Vatican, which political observers said could have been a bid to boost the US president's support at home among Catholic voters.

"I invited and urged him to come and visit the United States," Obama said after Catholic groups spoke of a possible papal visit for the

Church's World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in September 2015.

The closed-door talks between the first African-American US president and the first pope from Latin America lasted around 50 minutes -- slightly longer than papal meetings with other world leaders.

The two exchanged gifts afterwards, with the pope offering Obama a copy of his "apostolic exhortation" from last year in which he excoriated global capitalism with an invective against the "cult of money".

"I actually will probably read this in the Oval Office when I'm deeply frustrated. I'm sure it will give me strength and calm me down," a smiling Obama said.

During his visit, Obama met President Giorgio Napolitano and Renzi -- at 39, one of the European Union's youngest leaders and a web-savvy fan of Obama's.

He also got a private guided tour of the Colosseum.

In an interview with Italy's Corriere della Sera daily ahead of the meeting, Obama said Francis "has been an inspiration to people around the world, including me".

But he added: "It doesn't mean we agree on every issue".

Freed from Ukraine jail, Tymoshenko runs for president

KIEV (AFP) - Ukraine's divisive opposition icon Yulia Tymoshenko completed an improbable return to politics Thursday by announcing plans to contest snap polls to replace the ousted pro-Russian president whose regime sent her to jail.

"I intend to run for president of Ukraine," the 53-year-old told reporters after gingerly walking into a press room with the help of a walking stick she uses due to chronic back pain.

The brief but dramatic announcement encapsulates the spectacular changes that have swept the economically struggling and culturally splintered ex-Soviet state of 46 million in the past few weeks.

The country is due to hold

a presidential election on May 25 after the ouster of pro-Kremlin leader Viktor Yanukovich last month, the culmination of three months of pro-EU protests.

Tymoshenko -- one of the most charismatic and outspoken leaders of Ukraine's 2004 pro-democracy Orange Revolution -- lost a close presidential poll to Yanukovich in 2010 after heading two pro-Western cabinets that became embroiled in internal squabbles and eventually lost popular support.

The IMF announced on Thursday a \$14-\$18 billion bailout for Ukraine that requires the crisis-hit country to pursue painful and unpopular reforms to avert bankruptcy amid its escalating standoff with Russia.

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World's 'longest-serving' death row inmate freed for Japan retrial

TOKYO (AFP) - A man believed to be the world's longest-serving death row inmate walked free from jail Thursday after decades in solitary confinement, in a rare about-face for Japan's rigid justice system.

A slightly unsteady-looking Iwao Hakamada, 78, emerged from the Tokyo prison with his campaigning sister after Shizuoka District Court in central Japan ordered a fresh trial over the grisly 1966 murder of his boss and the man's family.

Presiding judge Hiroaki Murayama said he was concerned that investigators could have planted evidence to win a conviction almost half a century ago as they sought to bring closure to a crime that had shocked the country.

"There is a possibility that

(key pieces of) evidence have been fabricated by investigative bodies," Murayama said in his ruling.

Shizuoka prosecutors, who have three days to appeal the decision, told Japanese media that the court's decision was "unexpected".

Apart from the United States, Japan is the only major industrialised democracy to carry out capital punishment, a practice that has led to repeated protests from European governments and human rights groups, who say the justice system is heavily skewed in prosecutors' favour.

Hakamada is the sixth person since the end of World War II to receive a retrial after having a death sentence confirmed, and his case will bolster opponents of capital punishment.

Global support for reduction in govt control of web domain names

SINGAPORE (AFP) - A plan to give control of the Internet's technical operations to a diverse range of groups, including governments and businesses, instead allowing the state sole power, is gathering international support, participants at a Singapore meeting on the web's future said Thursday.

The meeting convened by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) was the first since the US government announced on March 14 it would hand over control of the Internet domain name system to a group comprised of various stakeholders in order to preserve the web's freedom.

Some countries like China and Russia want oversight of the Internet's technical functions to come under a group of governments or an inter-governmental organisation.

Kuek Yu-Chuang, ICANN's vice president and managing director for the Asia Pacific, said "there is widespread agreement" on the multi-stakeholders' model.

Revelations by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden of massive snooping of Internet traffic by US intelligence had given fresh impetus to calls

for control of the web to be pried out of American hands.

ICANN, a US-based non-profit group, controls domain names like .com and .org and Internet addresses under a contract with the US government that expires in September 2015.

About 2,000 delegates from 150 countries attended the Singapore meeting, including those from governments, businesses, academe and Internet organisations.

Critics say that having governments, especially those with authoritarian leaders, control the Internet's domain name system would allow states to clamp down on dissent and the freedom of expression.

At present, the US government approves top level domain names such as .com, .net and .org. However, it also has control over domain names that involves countries like .ir for Iran, .ru for Russia and .cn for China, a situation that has sparked resentment from some governments.

Discussions on the web's future shift to a broader meeting of stakeholders in Sao Paulo, Brazil next month called NetMundial, in which both technical and non-technical aspects of the Internet will be tackled.

Spain cracks down on S. American criminal gangs

MADRID (AFP) - Spain arrested 35 people from a violent street gang born in San Salvador as part of a major police crackdown on the growing threat from Latin American crime groups. Some 300 Guardia Civil police carried out 28 raids against the notorious Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, in their first such strike against the group, police said in a statement. Law enforcement officers have reported a mounting threat from Latin American gangs in Spain, where economic hardship and high unemployment have left many young people feeling marginalised. Officers detained 35 suspected leading gang members aged from 17 to 25 in the raids. Police said they seized knives, fake guns, drugs and documents during raids in several Spanish regions, including the major cities of Madrid and Barcelona. Other busts were carried out in the Mediterranean port of Alicante, where the stabbing of a South American at the end of 2012 sparked a long police investigation into MS-13 in Spain. Madrid police chief inspector Ricardo Gabaldon said Latin American criminal organisations first appeared on the police radar in 2003, but have grown as immigration has increased. Besides Spaniards, the suspected gang leaders arrested Monday included nationals of San Salvador, Romania, Ecuador, Bolivia, Honduras, Pakistan, Bulgaria and Morocco. Their marginalisation has been accentuated by Spain's economic crisis.



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US Air Force fires nine in nuclear missile cheating scandal

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Air Force said Thursday it sacked nine nuclear missile officers and will discipline dozens of others over an exam cheating scandal that has sparked concerns about lax ethics.

The officers, including chiefs of four squadrons, were all working at Malmstrom Air Force base in Montana, which has been rocked by cheating allegations that implicated up to 100 airmen.

An internal investigation had found that the commanders had not engaged in any test cheating but had "failed to provide adequate oversight of their crew force," James said.

A tenth officer had submitted his resignation over the case, she said.

A top general overseeing nuclear forces said the cheating stemmed in part from a stifling atmosphere created by commanders who over-emphasized perfect test scores for the missile launch officers.

The "zero-defect" approach was unrealistic and unnecessary, as the rules for managing the ballistic missiles had redundancies and



other automatic safeguards, Wilson said.

The cheating was first uncovered in January during an unrelated investigation into illegal drugs. The outcome of that drug probe is still pending.

Out of 100 officers potentially linked to the cheating, nine have since been cleared in an investigation, James said.

Another nine cases were being examined separately by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. Of those, eight could involve criminal charges related to mishandling classified information -- possibly the exam materials.

About 30 to 40 officers will be retrained and allowed to return to duty to the missile force, while the remainder will face disciplinary action that could include being discharged from the military, officials said.

Pentagon chief Chuck Hagel has expressed deep disappointment over the cheating and voiced a wider concern over unethical conduct across the armed forces, after a spate of embarrassing scandals.

Hagel this week appointed a senior naval officer, Rear Admiral Margaret Klein, to serve as a special adviser looking at ethics and "character" issues.

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Artificial hearts can be a temporary fix

WASHINGTON (AFP) - An artificial heart may help patients survive while awaiting a heart transplant, although the devices remain risky 10 years after they were approved, according to a US study Thursday.

Researchers followed 22 patients with end-stage heart failure over the course of two months, to see how they responded to implantation with a Syncardia total artificial heart, the only such device that is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

By the end of the 60 day period, five of the patients had died, said the research presented at the American College of Cardiology conference in Washington.

Among the rest, four had undergone successful heart transplants and 13 were alive and awaiting donor hearts.

"We were pleased to see how well many of these patients did," said lead author Swaminatha Gurudevan, a cardiologist at Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute, where the study was carried out from 2012 to 2013.

"Given how sick these patients were, we expected to see higher mortality rates."

The deaths in the study tended to be among patients who were sickest before the procedure.

The artificial heart used in the study was FDA approved in 2004 but is not widely used.

It requires complex surgery for implantation, for which only a few health care centers are certified.

Risks include blood clots, bleeding, infections and device malfunctions.

The device attaches to the patient's upper heart cham-



bers and pumps blood through its mechanical valves.

The artificial heart is connected to a power source outside the body that can be carried in a backpack.

If the artificial heart were

to be considered for longer-term use, more research would be needed to create easier ways to recharge the external battery, or have a backup power option to decrease the risk of device failure, researchers said.

Some 50,000 people worldwide are candidates for heart transplants, though just 5,000 of these operations take place each year.

A French biomedical firm, Carmat, is in the process of developing an artificial heart that could be used for longer periods of time.

Its first trial of the device on a 76-year-old man ended March 2 with the patient's death after two and a half months.

Mediterranean Diet Combats Diabetes, Study Says



--Adhering to a so-called Mediterranean diet may reduce your risk of diabetes, especially if you're at high risk for heart disease. The number of diabetes cases worldwide has doubled in the past 30 years and this spike has been linked to the growing obesity epidemic. The Mediterranean diet is a heart-healthy eating plan that emphasizes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, beans, nuts and seeds, and healthy fats. The diet also recognizes the importance of being physically active, and enjoying meals with family and friends.

Autism rates jump again, affecting 1 in 68 children

-Autism rates climbed nearly 30% between 2008 and 2010 and have more than doubled since the turn of the century, according to a new study from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The condition is now believed to affect one of every 68 8-year-olds - up from one in 88 just two years earlier.

That means virtually every grade in every elementary school has at least one child with autism - a seemingly astonishing rise for a condition that was nearly unheard of a generation ago.

What's still unknown is the driver of that increase. Many experts believe the rise is largely due to better awareness and diagnosis rather than a true increase in the number of children with the condition.

The aging of parents is also known to be a factor; the chances of autism increase with the age of parents at conception.

Despite their concern, experts said they were not surprised by the increase, because other data had suggested the numbers would continue to climb. In New Jersey, for instance, autism rates were 50% higher than in the rest of the nation in 2000, and they remained that much higher in 2010 - suggesting

the national rates will continue to rise to catch up, said Walter Zahorodny, a psychologist who directs the New Jersey Autism Study. "To me it seems like autism prevalence can only get higher," he said.

The new study also showed that blacks continue to lag behind whites and Hispanics in diagnoses. Zahorodny, also an assistant professor at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, said the gap has persisted for so long that he thinks it may be real - that blacks may be less vulnerable to autism for some unknown reason. Others are quicker to blame lack of medical access for the difference.

To be diagnosed on autism spectrum, someone must have deficits in three areas: communications, social skills and typical behavior. Roughly one-third of the children in the CDC study also had intellectual deficits, with the remainder showing normal or above-average intelligence.

The average age a child is diagnosed with autism has fallen, but remains above age 4 - though diagnosis is possible by age 2. Research suggests that the earlier a child with autism receives therapy the better the chance of limiting their deficits.

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Christine McVie rejoins Fleetwood Mac, N. America tour set



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Singer and keyboardist Christine McVie is rejoining Fleetwood Mac after a 16-year absence, as the veteran band plans to hit the road for a major North American tour starting in September. McVie, 70, has not toured with the band since 1998. The "On With The Show" tour will kick off September 30 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The band will play 34 shows in 33 cities across the United States and Canada. The Grammy-winning band's "Rumours" album, released in 1977, is considered to be one of the most successful in history with more than 40 million copies sold.

L'Wren Scott will leave \$9M estate to Mick Jagger



L'Wren Scott reportedly left her \$9 million US estate to her longtime partner, Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger, including a Manhattan condo and other personal possessions. The designer's funeral took place on Tuesday in Los Angeles, with Mick Jagger, L'Wren Scott's brother Randall Bambrough, various friends, and some of Mick's children and grandchildren in attendance.



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Earth Hour to tap crowdfunding for green campaigns



SINGAPORE (AFP) - A plan to give control of the Internet's technical operations to a diverse range of groups, including governments and businesses, instead allowing the state sole power, is gathering international support, participants at a Singapore meeting on the web's future said Thursday.

The meeting convened by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) was the first since the US government announced on March 14 it would hand over control of the Internet domain name system to a group comprised of various stakeholders in order to preserve the web's freedom.

Some countries like China and Russia want oversight of the Internet's technical func-

tions to come under a group of governments or an inter-governmental organisation.

Kuek Yu-Chuang, ICANN's vice president and managing director for the Asia Pacific, said "there is widespread agreement" on the multi-stakeholders' model.

Revelations by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden of massive snooping of Internet traffic by US intelligence had given fresh impetus to calls for control of the web to be pried out of American hands.

ICANN, a US-based non-profit group, controls domain names like .com and .org and Internet addresses under a contract with the US government that expires in September 2015.

ICANN has been tasked to lead talks on the transition, expected to be in place by the time its contract ends.

About 2,000 delegates from 150 countries attended the Singapore meeting, including those from governments, businesses, academe and Internet organisations.

Critics say that having governments, especially those with authoritarian leaders, control the Internet's domain name system would allow states to clamp down on dissent and the freedom of expression.

At present, the US government approves top level domain names such as .com, .net and .org. However, it also has control over domain names that involves countries like .ir for Iran, .ru for Russia and .cn for China, a situation that has sparked resentment from some governments.

Leaders of groups responsible for the Internet's technical infrastructure warned at a meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay last year, that the web risked fragmentation at the national level if allegations of "pervasive monitoring and surveillance" pushed governments to take control.

Discussions on the web's future shift to a broader meeting of stakeholders in Sao Paulo, Brazil next month called NetMundial, in which both technical and non-technical aspects of the Internet will be tackled.

TAJ MAHAL; Taste of INDIA - If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal," discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb.

Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on which you can spoon your main course, as well. Pooni is



crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal. Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary; they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been toying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal!

Call 588-4494 for reservations.

What's Oculus VR?



IRVINE - Oculus VR is a headset, which looks like something a skier or scuba diver might wear, fits snugly over the wearer's face and is paired with headphones. A high-definition 3-D display immerses you in an interactive world -- a medieval village, a tropical jungle, a jet's cockpit -- which you navigate with the help of a game controller. The goggles come packed with an extra-wide field of view, accelerometer, gyroscope and compass to track the position of your head and sync the visuals to the direction where you are looking. This technology has allowed Oculus to improve on the sometimes jerky visuals of other virtual-reality systems. Those who have demoed the headset say it feels so real they have flinched involuntarily at perceived dangers. Reviewers have been wildly enthusiastic. By buying Oculus, Facebook also is betting that the next tech wave could be ruled by wearable devices -- a similar path being trod by Google, with its Glass eyewear, and Samsung, with its Galaxy Gear smartwatch.

Digital ventures boost ailing news media, study shows

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Online news ventures have added nearly 5,000 US media jobs in the past few years, boosting an industry that is still reeling from technology changes, a study showed Wednesday.

The Pew Research Center's "State of the News Media 2014" report said these digital ventures are creating a more varied set of financial models for news, offering some hope to the troubled sector.

The Pew report said the largest number of journalists producing original reporting are still at newspapers, whose woes have deepened -- with employment down 6.4 percent in 2012 and more losses likely in 2013 when final figures are tallied.

And the news business, which generates some \$60 billion in annual revenues, still relies on advertising for nearly 70 percent of its money.

But the online segment is gaining traction and pointing to successful new models, the Pew researchers said.

"New players are boosting reporting power, technological talent and financial resources going into news, creating a level of energy not

felt for a long time," said Amy Mitchell, director of journalism research for Pew.

While most newspapers have failed to generate significant revenues from their digital editions, some online news ventures are moving away from the ad-based model, getting support from philanthropists, venture capitalists and other methods such as conferences and events, Pew noted.

These ventures "are spurring different ways to think about how to support journalism in the digital age," said Pew research Mark Jurkowitz.

But Pew cautioned that

"this growing investment in digital news does not mean the industry has figured out a consistent formula for monetizing that news."

According to Pew, 30 of the largest digital-only news organizations account for nearly 3,000 jobs, and one big area of investment is global coverage.

Pew noted that Vice Media has 35 overseas bureaus, while the Huffington Post hopes to grow to 15 countries from 11 this year.

Other digital ventures growing overseas coverage include BuzzFeed and Atlantic Media's Quartz. This comes at a time when international

reporters working for US newspapers have declined 24 percent from 2003 to 2010, according to Pew.

Pew said the gains at digital ventures have only modestly offset the losses in print, estimated at more than 16,000 newsroom jobs at newspapers and 38,000 in magazines from 2003 to 2012.

But the study said digital is showing strong journalistic efforts in some cases.

"Many digital outlets are working to fill reporting gaps created by the strain on resources at traditional outlets -- from niche topic areas like education to international

coverage to local community news to investigative journalism," the report said.

The researchers said social media and mobile platforms are also transforming the news business. They found 50 percent of social network users share or repost news stories, images or videos, and 46 percent discuss news issues or events on social networks.

More than one out ten online news consumers have submitted their own content -- videos, photos, articles or opinion pieces -- to news websites or blogs, the report found.

Traditional television has seen mixed results, Pew said. Its analysis of Nielsen data showed fewer Americans watched cable news in 2013, while more tuned into network or local television news -- the first increase for local TV news in five years.

Pew found fewer local TV stations in 2013 producing original news compared with 2012, a phenomenon driven by ownership changes and content-sharing deals. The study found a quarter of the 952 US television stations that air newscasts do not produce the programs they air.



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Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.62
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	3.01
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	202.47
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	247.50
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	28.01
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	33.39
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	30.19
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	175.84

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US blocking sensitive exports to Russia



WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States is quietly blocking exports of sensitive dual-use materials and technologies to Russia, an apparent response to its annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region.

The Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security, which oversees sensitive exports, especially to US rivals, revealed earlier this week that it is refusing to issue licenses for sales of goods.

A terse statement on its website reads:

"Since March 1, 2014, BIS has placed a hold on the issuance of licenses that would authorize the export or re-export of items to Russia. BIS will continue this practice until further notice."

The State Department said its parallel agency, the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls, has since Monday also put a halt on licensing of the export of defense-related goods and services to Russia.

"We've been taking steps as

part of our ongoing response" to Russia's actions in Ukraine, said Deputy State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf.

"The State Department will continue to hold until further notice," she added.

The moves came in the wake of the White House announcing sanctions on Russia earlier this month, including asset freezes and visa bans on top officials in the Russian government and several tycoons close to President Vladimir Putin.

The Commerce Department action affects a significant level of US exports.

Last year, the BIS approved nearly \$1.5 billion in sales to Russia, triple the level of the previous year.

The goods regulated by the agency include police and military gear and hardware, toxic chemicals, explosives detonators, various electronics and software, and other sensitive equipment and materials.

Minister of Finance: Aruba Central Bank announces positive economic growth, But public finances remains the biggest challenge



ORANJESTAD - Minister of Finance, Juan David Yrausquin is very optimistic with the recent report of the Aruba Central Bank stating that in 2013 the economy grew with 3.9% and for the year 2014 it will grow with 2.6%.

According to the minister the Aruba economy looks very positive. "We had a bad economic situation in 2009 and 2010. In 2011 the economy recovered a little but in 2012 it fell back, this due to among others, the closure of the refinery. In 2013, the economy grew back and now for 2014 we see very positive figures for the future."

Following is a Summary of the Monthly Bulletin of January 2014:

During the month of January 2014, money supply rose by Afl. 46.0 million to Afl. 3,339.8 million, resulting

from expansions in both net foreign assets (excluding revaluation differences of gold and foreign exchange holdings) and net domestic assets of, respectively, Afl. 29.1 million and Afl. 16.9 million. The net inflow of foreign funds resulted mainly from a surplus on the current account, as gross tourism receipts surpassed payments for imports of goods. The increase in the domestic component of the money supply was brought about by an Afl. 31.8 million rise in the net claims of the banking sector on the public sector, which was partly offset by reductions in the non-credit related balance sheet items and claims on the private sector of, respectively, Afl. 10.5 million and Afl. 4.3 million. The expansion in the net claims of the banking sector on the public sector stemmed mostly from an Afl. 29.0 million decline in government deposits. The fall in the claims on the private sector mainly reflected an Afl. 8.3 million (-1.5 percent) decrease in consumer credit, which was mitigated by upturns in housing mortgages and commercial loans of, respectively, Afl. 3.3 million (+0.3 percent) and Afl. 1.7 million (+0.1 percent).

The consumer price index (CPI) for January 2014 registered a 0.2 percent decrease,

compared to the same month of 2013. The main contributors to this drop were recreation and culture, household operation, and clothing and footwear. Excluding the effect of food and energy (which partly affects the housing and transport components), the core CPI decreased by 0.2 percent, compared to January 2013. The 12-month average inflation rate was -2.1 percent in January 2014. Excluding the energy and food components, the core CPI went up by 0.2 percent.

In January 2014, the number of stay-over visitors totaled 82,887, which is 9.4 percent (+7,136 visitors) higher than in January 2013. This growth was mainly caused by increased visitors from Latin America and North America of, respectively, 23.9 percent (+3,936 visitors) and 4.9 percent (+2,475 visitors). The expansion in the Latin American market was mostly attributed to a rise in arrivals from Venezuela of 27.7 percent (+2,612 visitors). Growth in the North American market resulted mainly from a 5.4 percent (+2,463 visitors) upturn in the number of visitors from the United States. The European market noted an overall growth of 573 visitors (+8.5 percent) in January 2014, compared to January 2013. The largest increases were registered in arrivals from Italy (+199 visitors) and England (+109 visitors). The number of cruise visitors dropped by 35,665 or 30.1 percent to 82,877 in the month of January 2014, compared to the same month of the previous year. This fall resulted mainly from a drop of 14 ship calls to 50 in January 2014, compared to 64 in January 2013.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



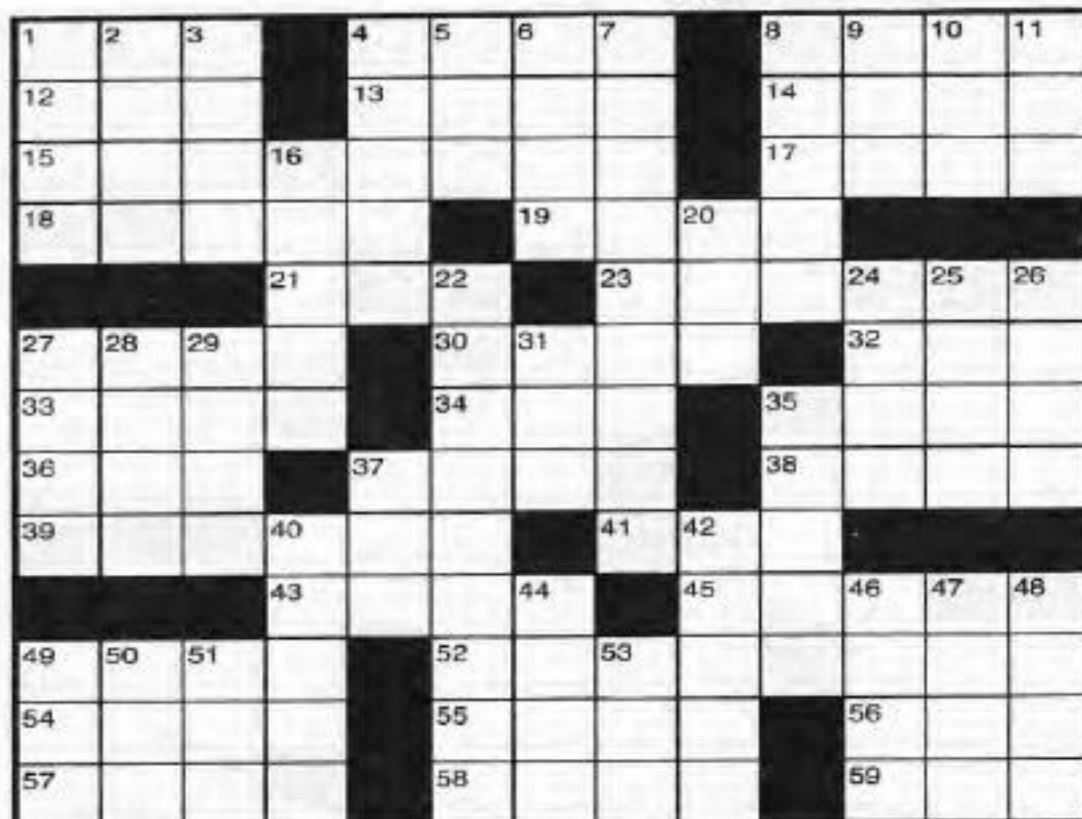
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ACROSS

1. Rascalion
4. Lenient
8. Refrain syllables (2 wds.)
12. Modern (prefix)
13. Singer Vikki
14. Public disorder
15. Certain marsupial
17. False god
18. Kettle emanation
19. Newsmen Roger
21. ID digits
23. One who captures
27. Miss a step
30. Actress Martinelli
32. Onassis's

nickname

33. Tosses
34. "Norma" (Sally Field movie)
35. Singer Kristofferson
36. Sleeve filler
37. "___ creature was stirring..." (2 wds.)
38. Giraffe's feature
39. ___ upon (present, as a gift)
41. Application
43. Frankenstein's helper
45. "Remember the ___!"
49. Actor Sean
52. Let down a hem

DOWN

54. Booty
55. Small insect
56. Jimmy Carter's daughter
57. Pierre's head
58. Ogles
59. Cardboard
1. Pen fluids
2. Vegetarian diet's lack
3. Cornmeal bread
4. Fraudulent schemes
5. Boat paddle
6. Word on a gift card
7. Bride's outfit
8. Mexican artist Kahlo
9. Succor
10. Brit's

- washroom
11. Cape Cod's ocean (abbr.)
16. Breathes sharply
20. Heredity initials
22. Rex Stout's fictional detective (2 wds.)
24. Remarkable
25. Actor Stoltz
26. Be daring
27. Side of bacon
28. Traditional knowledge
29. Certain PCs
31. Nero's language (abbr.)
35. Prepared to pray
37. Eggy drink
40. Slight bit of color
42. Legends
44. Depend (on)
46. "Pequod" captain
47. Short note
48. Black gem
49. California's time (abbr.)
50. Bleating mom
51. Natalie Cole's dad
53. Born as



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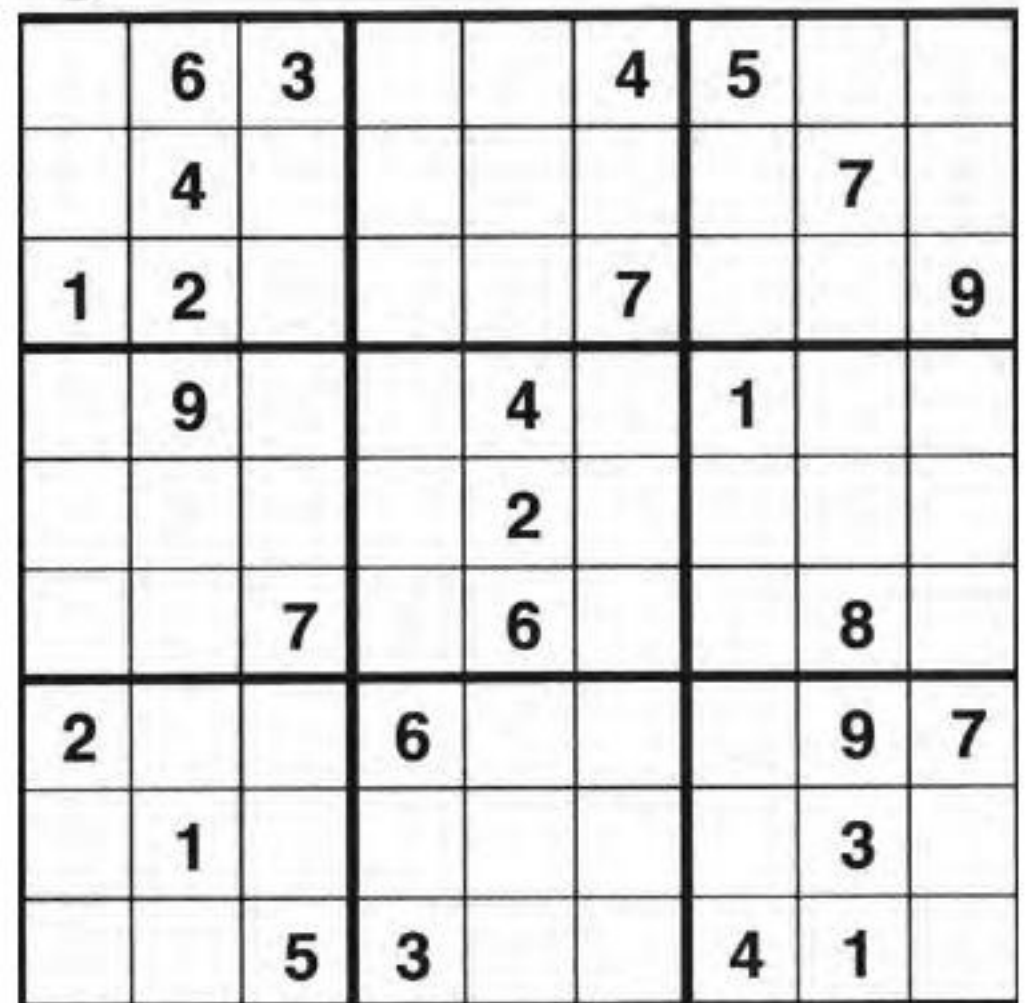
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SOLUTION

9	1	7	2	8	5	3	4	6
5	3	2	6	4	9	1	8	7
4	8	9	1	5	7	3	6	2
2	8	6	5	1	4	5	7	9
7	9	4	3	2	6	1	8	5
6	5	1	8	7	4	2	3	9
6	7	9	4	5	8	2	1	3
8	4	5	9	1	2	6	7	5
1	2	5	7	6	9	8	3	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



Delicious Breakfast

--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on para-

dise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking. 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at

8am, patrons can now order 2 eggs any style (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) and toast for a price of only \$4.99 or All You Can Eat Pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$.79! Breakfast is served from 8am until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on, after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie, so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice

beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are



ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to

watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish Sunday-Thursdays; and until 3am on Friday & Saturdays.

Delivery is available to most Hotels and most beaches! Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality, it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway, we are very pleased by the response to our



concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of

Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area, also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services pro-

gram. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their spe-

cific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property, not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas, 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Football: Platini says only he can beat Blatter

ASTANA (AFP) - UEFA president Michel Platini said in an interview Thursday that he is the only person capable of stopping Sepp Blatter in an election for FIFA president.

But the French football legend is still not saying whether he will stand in the FIFA election to be held next year.

"Only one person can beat Blatter," the UEFA leader told a small group of journalists on the sidelines of the UEFA congress in Astana.

When pressed on whether he was that person, Platini answered "yes".

The 78-year-old Blatter has not officially said whether he will stand for a new term, but is widely expected to announce his candidacy around the World Cup finals this year.



Michel Platini 'fed up' with calls for Russian boycott
'Let politicians take care of politics. Sports needs to be a place that brings people together'

Platini told the UEFA Congress he would have more meetings with European football leaders in coming months before announcing whether he would stand for FIFA.

The 58-year-old UEFA president said it would be a "personal" decision but that

he would consult widely.

"I will give my answer after the World Cup. There will be a series of meetings with European federation officials. Maybe 99% of them will say 'we prefer that you stay at UEFA', that could also be an element of reflection" in the decision, Platini said.

Figure skating: Resurgent Asada breaks world record



Mao Asada

SAITAMA (AFP) - Japan's Mao Asada broke the short programme world record in a bid for a third women's title at the world championships Thursday, putting her disastrous Olympic performance behind her.

Skating to Frederic Chopin's "Nocturne in E Flat major" in what could be the last competition of her career, the 23-year-old nailed her trademark triple axel in her opening element, followed by a clean triple flip and a triple-double loop combination.

She also hit a maximum

level-four in all three spins and a step sequence to pick up 78.66 points in front of a roaring capacity home crowd at the 18,400-seat Saitama Super Arena.

Her result topped the previous world mark of 78.50 points scored by her longtime rival Kim Yu-Na of South Korea when she beat Asada into second spot at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. It also beat her five-year-old personal best of 75.84.

Italy's Carolina Kostner, the 2012 world champion who grabbed the bronze behind

Russia's Adelina Sotnikova and Kim at last month's Sochi Games, trailed in second spot at 77.24 points going into the final free skate on Saturday.

Russia's 15-year-old Julia Lipnitskaia came in third on 74.54 points. Both Kostner and Lipnitskaia improved their personal best scores.

Russia's 15-year-old Julia Lipnitskaia came in third on 74.54 points. Both Kostner and Lipnitskaia improved their personal best scores.

In Sochi, she botched a triple axel and other jumps to be 16th after the short programme but sprang back in free skating to finish sixth overall.

In the pairs, double Olympic figure skating bronze medallists Aliona Savchenko and Robin Szolkowy bowed out on a high with a fifth world title in their final competition before retirement.

In the absence of Olympic champions and main rivals, Russia's Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov, the German pair topped the table for a second straight day with 145.86 points in the free skate.

Russia's Ksenia Stolbova and Fedor Klimov, second at last month's Sochi Game, moved up from overnight third spot to grab more silver medals. Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford of Canada slipped to third spot.



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MIAMI (AFP) - Seventh-seeded Czech Tomas Berdych secured his semi-final berth at the Miami ATP Masters Thursday with a 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) win over Ukrainian Alexandr Dolgoplov. Thanks to his quarter-final victory, Berdych is projected to rise from his current seventh in the world to number five next week. The Czech already has one title to his credit in 2014, at Rotterdam, and a runner-up finish in Dubai where he fell to Swiss great Roger Federer in the final. Berdych is seeking a second trip to the final at Miami, where he lost to Andy Roddick in the title match in 2010.



ASTANA (AFP) - European countries agreed Thursday to launch a Nations League tournament in 2018 to run parallel to the World Cup and European Championship. The tournament could take on immediate importance as it will offer four places in the European Championships finals. The 54 UEFA countries will be divided into divisions with promotion and relegation and offer an extra chance to qualify for the European Championship. UEFA's Congress in Astana voted unanimously to start the league. "This is a big step for national teams in Europe and we hope that fans will support the new format," said Wolfgang Niersbach, chairman of the UEFA competition committee. UEFA president Michel Platini said countries wanted a change from "the friendlies that don't interest anyone." Though the final details have yet to be agreed, the current plan is for four divisions, which will be subdivided into four pools of three of four teams. Each country would play four to six matches in the first tournament between September and November 2018 -- soon after the World Cup finals in Russia. The four pool winners would play for the title in early 2019. The pool winners will get places in the European Championship finals. Europe's top clubs, always wary of additions to the soccer calendar, gave cautious approval to the new tournament.

Judo Federation to hold two-day competitions

ORANJESTAD - One sport which has had various Olympic representations for Aruba in the past is the sport of Judo.

Athletes Fiderd Vis, Javier Wanga and Jaymy Mata have represented Aruba in Olympic Games. Also, Em-mazira Kelly, Raigel Brete and Christopher Croes competed for Aruba in youth tournaments with much success.

More and more young people are beginning to practice this sport. In view of the great interest, the Judo Federation decided to organize a two-day competition in connection with our national Flag and Anthem celebration. The two days are Saturday and Sunday, March 29th and 30th.

The first day of competition will be held in the Sport



Hall in Santa Cruz. The category will be youth up to 14 years of age, and a Senior category. The time is from 7:00 to 9:00 in the evening.

On Sunday the 30th the competition will be held in the San Nicolaas YMCA. This will be for infant category, thus from 9-12 up to 13 years of age. Game time will

be from 9:00 m to 12 noon.

The Subsidy Commission of Lotto pa Deporte is pleased to assist the Judo Federation in organizing this competition for their athletes. This will certainly help promote this interesting sport and at the same time help in the further development of our local athletes.

Tennis: Serena powers past Sharapova and into Miami final



MIAMI (AFP) - Serena Williams extended her dominance of Maria Sharapova on Thursday, defeating the Russian 6-4, 6-3 to reach the final of the Miami hardcourt tournament for the ninth time.

World number one Williams will be seeking a second straight Miami crown -- and the seventh of her career -- on Saturday, when she takes on either Australian Open champion Li Na of China or Slovakian Dominika Cibulkova in the women's final of the combined WTA and ATP Masters event.

Sharapova, ranked fifth in the world and seeded fourth, seized the first break in each set, but couldn't build on her advantage as she went down

to Williams for a 15th straight time.

Williams leads their career head-to-head 16-2, and Sharapova's two victories in the rivalry came back in 2004, when a precocious 17-year-old Sharapova beat Williams in the finals at Wimbledon and the WTA Championships.

Williams, sporting the colors of the NFL's Miami Dolphins of which she is a part-owner, was surprised when an on-court interviewer told her she was in a ninth Miami final.

For Sharapova it was another disappointing finish in Miami, where she has reached five finals but never lifted the trophy.

In Thursday's second semi-

final, world number two Li was seeking to improve her perfect 6-0 record against 11th-ranked Cibulkova.

Li beat Cibulkova in the Australian Open final in January to claim her second career Grand Slam title, and downed the Slovakian again in the quarter-finals at Indian Wells this month.

Li beat former world number one Caroline Wozniacki in the quarter-finals on Wednesday while Cibulkova survived three match points en route to a victory over world number three Agnieszka Radwanska.

Li said she expected a tough match against Cibulkova, and she'd be focused only on the task at hand and not on prior victories.



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NBA: Pacers out muscle Heat to clinch division title



INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) - Evan Turner came off the bench to score the go-ahead basket with 90 seconds left as the Indiana Pacers edged reigning league champs Miami 84-83 to clinch the Central Division title on Wednesday.

Turner came into the game as a replacement for Lance Stephenson who was ejected earlier in the National Basketball Association contest in front of a crowd of 18,165 at the Bankers Life Fieldhouse arena.

The physical contest between the Eastern Conference powerhouses, featured a couple of ejections, including Indiana's Stephenson who was thrown out after receiving a second technical foul in the fourth quarter when he walked up to Miami guard Dwyane Wade and said something.

That left the Pacers were without their starting point

guard for the final five minutes of the game.

Chris Bosh had a chance to win the game but his shot at the buzzer missed the mark for Miami who have lost five of their last nine games.

Paul George finished with 23 points and eight rebounds, Roy Hibbert had 21 and Stephenson tallied 15 for the Pacers who lost game seven to the Heat in last year's league semi-final playoff series.

LeBron James paced the Miami attack with 38 points, eight rebounds and five assists. James also committed six of Miami's 19 turnovers.

The Pacers won the division title for the second straight season. They came into the game averaging 97.8 points per game and this was their sixth win in their last nine contests. They now own a league best 33-4 record at home, where they have won four straight.



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Football: Sao Paulo World Cup stadium still concerns FIFA



BRASILIA (AFP) - FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke on Thursday said work on the Sao Paulo stadium which will host the opening match of the World Cup remains a concern.

A fatal accident at the stadium in November and worries over who foots the bill for temporary facilities has held up progress at the arena where Brazil take on Croatia on June 12 in the World Cup opener.

Brazilian Sports Minister Aldo Rebelo insisted the authorities were lending their full support.

"We are helping so that the town hall, the state government and the (private) owners of Corinthians Arena find a solution," Rebelo said.

Earlier this week, Brazil's Development Bank released

the first two-thirds of a \$160 million loan to complete the stadium project.

But confusion remains over who finances some \$20 million 'overlay' or temporary facilities.

Sao Paulo was one of six venues to miss an initial FIFA deadline of December 31 and the stadium is only set to be handed over to organizers in mid-May.

Despite the tight timetable, Valcke said on the basis of talks with constructor Odebrecht he was confident.

"I have full trust in Odebrecht to deliver on time for the opening game," Valcke told reporters at the Maracana Stadium, which will host the July 13 final.

However, initial agreements for the host cities do not make Odebrecht respon-

sible for the cost of the work but rather the owner, Corinthians club.

Valcke said come what may, with 77 days to go until the first match Sao Paulo would definitely stage the curtain-raiser.

On Porto Alegre, amid reports local media authorities were prepared to sue FIFA if the organization did not help with temporary facility costs, Valcke said the coming weeks were crucial.

Tuesday, the state legislature in Porto Alegre passed a motion whereby firms contributing to a bill of some \$11 million will receive tax breaks.

Curitiba and Cuiaba stadiums also remain incomplete, though Valcke said he stood by last month's decision to retain Curitiba after an initial threat to axe it over lagging preparations.

Brazil may be the most successful nation in the tournament's history, but the giant nation's first World Cup in 64 years has turned into a hot potato for organizers and the government.

Protest groups agast at the spiraling cost beyond \$11 billion -- and with the 2016 Rio Olympics to come -- have promised to disrupt the tournament.



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